

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 193369 TOSEC 200022

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FOL RPT AMMAN 4079 ACTION SECSTATE 04 AUG QUOTE

E C R E T AMMAN 4079

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN--JORDAN BUDGET AND MILITARY
DEVELOPMENT

1. WHEN I SAW KING HUSSEIN AUGUST FOUR I GAVE HIM A BRIEF
REPORT ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS CIVILIAN AND MILITARY
PERSONNEL ON JORDANS CURENT BUDGET PROBLEMS I TOLD
THE KING THAT ON THE CIVILIAN SIDE WE THOUGHT IT
NECESSARY TO DO MORE TIGHTENING UP THEREFORE WE WOULD FURTHER
NEED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE JORDANIAN BUDGET IN ORDER TO AVOID
FUTURE PROBLEMS.

2. I TOLD HIM WE WOULD BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS
TO WASHINGTON SHORTLY ON THE DIVISION OF FUNDS
BETWEEN BUDGET SUPPORT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
FOR THE ITERIM QUARTER. WE WERE CONVINCED THAT JORDAN

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HAD A REAL BUDGET PROBLEM AND WOULD BE MAKING RECOMMENDATION

ACCORDINGLY PROPOSING A SPLIT IN FAVOR OF
BUDGET SUPPORT SOMEWHAT IN EXCESS OF \$40-20 DIVISION
OF THE \$60 M NOW AVAILABLE.

3. ON THE MILITARY SIDE I TOLD THE KING THAT OUR
FIRST PRIORITY WOULD BE TO ARRANGE FOR PAYMENT OF
DEBTS ALREADY DUE THE US FOR FOREIGN MILITARY
SALES. IF NOT PAID THESE COULD RAISE VERY SERIOUS
ISSUES FOR JORDAN IN THE US. THIS MIGHT MEAN
RESTRUCTURING HIS FY76 PROGRAM INCLUDING THE NEED
TO POSTPONE THE PURCHASE OF SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUCH
AS HOWITZERS UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

4. THE KING SAID HE RECOGNIZED HE NOW HAD SERIOUS
FUNDING PROBLEMS AND THAT TOUGH DECISIONS WOULD
HAVE TO BE MADE. I TOLD THE KING THAT WE WOULD
GIVE HIM SHORTLY A LETTER ON THE MILITARY SIDE WHICH
WOULD EXPLAIN IN DETAIL AND IN AN UNVARNISHED METHOD SOME
OF THE MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. THIS LETTER WOULD
BE FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL CONSIDERATION BUT IF HE WISHES TO
SHOW IT TO HIS FRIENDS IN THE GULF TO SHOW
THE IMPACT OF HIS FUNDING SHORTAGES ON HIS MILITARY CAPABILITIES
THAT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT WITH ME. THE KING
SAID HE WOULD WELCOME THE LETTER AND WOULD BE SENDING
IT TO TEHRAN SO THAT SHAH WOULD KNOW THE FULL EXTENT
OF HIS CURRENT PROBLEMS.

5. THE KING THEN RAISED WITH ME THE NEED FOR JORDAN
TO RETHINK ITS MILITARY MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS AND HIS
OWN JUDGEMENT THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE SHIFTING HIS
MILITARY TO A SMALLER MANPOWER BASE FOR A STANDING
ARMY AND DEVELOPING A STRONG RESERVE CAPABILITY. HE
SAID THE ISRAELI SYSTEM MIGHT WORK WELL IN JORDAN
AND WITH THE NEED FOR MORE MANPOWER FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN THE JORDAN VALLEY, HE COULD CREATE
SETTLEMENTS THERE ALONG THE SAME LINES THE ISRAELIS
HAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPMENT AND DEFENSE.

6. I ALSO TOLD THE KING THAT HE HAD SERIOUS FINANCIAL
PROBLEMS AND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BEGIN TO
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LOOK AT THESE IN TERMS OF A FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR HIS
OWN MILITARY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MANPOWER
MAINTENANCE COSTS AND WEAPONS ACQUISITION. HE ASKED
IF US EXPERTS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO HELP. I TOLD
HIM WE WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO ASSIST HIM ALONG THESE
LINES.

7. FINALLY THE KING TALKED TO ME ABOUT THE OFFER OF

THE SHAH TO DIESELIZE SOME OF HIS CURENT TANK FLEET.
HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THE SHAH COULD BE PERSUADED ALSO
TO UP-GUN THE TANKS AT THE SAME TIME. HE SAW NO VALUE
IN SENDINGHIS TANKS TO IRAN PULLING THEM APART TO PUT
IN NEW ENGINES AND RETURNING THEM HERE ONLY TO PULL
THEM APART AGAIN TO PUT IN NEW GUNS. I SAID I AGREED
WITH HIS JUDGEMENT ON THIS POINT AND SUGGESTED THAT WE
WORK CLOSELY WITH HIM IN SEEKING SOME SOLUTION. KING
SAYS FOR THE LONG TERM HE IS STLL VERY MUCH INTERESTED
IN DEVELOPING AN ARMORE REBUILD FACILTY FOR JORDAN.

8. COMMENT: SINCE COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERA BIN SHAKER
WAS WITH THE KING PRIORTO MY CONVERSATION AND MY DEFENSE
ATTACHE HAS DONE VERY CONSIDERABLE WORK IN BRINGING BIN
SHAKER TOTHE VIEW THAT KING NEEDS TO CUT DOWN ON HIS
MILITARY MANPOWER AND BEEF UP HIS GENERAL PLANNING THE
PRESENATION OF "HIS IDEA" IS A SIGNIFICANT BREAK THROUGH
HOPEFULLY TO INTRODUCE A GREATER REALITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
INJORDANS MILITARY PLANNING AND I AM PREPARED HERE
TO FOLLOW UP I TRUST AND HOPE WE CAN ACHIEVE
FULL STATE AND DOD SUPPORT OF THIS PROCESS. KING
KNOWS HE IS IN OVER HIS HEAD IN TERMS OF FUNDING
AND MANPOER AND THIS IS THE BEST TIME TO GET HIM
ON BOARD WITH A MORE REALISTIC APPROACH. WE WILL
HAVE FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTION AS
THE PROCESS EVOLVES.

9. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT PASS DOD AND TEHRAN
PICKERING

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